A non-profit corporation to promote the preservation and development of buildings of historical and architectural significance in New London, Connecticut, beginning with Union Railroad Station.

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CONN. COLLEGE LIBRARY
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NEW LONDON, CT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 28th at 7:30 p.m.
Monthly Board of Directors Mtg. Phil Hendel will be guest speaker.

Saturday, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m.
A repeat of the 1976 Historical and Architectural Walking tour of Bank Street. Come see what changes two years have wrought on the street!

Saturday, May 27th at 1:00 p.m.
A walking tour of 19th century residential developments in downtown New London, including the Starr and Tilley Street area.

There are also tentative plans for a tour of Fort Trumbull this summer, and a film preview. Volunteers are needed for the tours. Please call Dale Plummer at 443-4751 for details.

NLL-URST JOINS LIBRARY

NLL-URST has become a friend of the New London Public Library with a $25.00 donation. A library membership in the National Trust was also donated. Library patrons may now look forward to reading "Preservation News" and "Historic Preservation." This is a good beginning for a Preservation Resource Center in the Library. Such a center might contain information on restoration for people interested in working on their own homes as well as articles and books on rehabilitation and preservation efforts throughout the country.

FILM NEARS COMPLETION

"The Rescue of H. H. Richardson's Last Station" is nearing completion, thanks to a $3400 Community Development grant by the City of New London. The film was commissioned in 1975 by Union Railroad Station Trust to document the preservation and restoration of Union Station. Film-makers John Hill of Seattle and Todd Gangler of New Haven hope to finish work within a few months. The grant fulfills the $14,000 contract for the film, and will finance in part the filming of the present condition of the station, film editing, soundtrack addition and other final details.

The film focuses on the controversy surrounding Union Station. It shows it before, during, and after rehabilitation by Anderson-Notter. Hill and Gangler interviewed those advocating demolition and those fighting to save the building. They also filmed all 17 of Richardson's railroad stations in New England. These are in varying states of preservation and are often no longer railroad stations. Of the 17 stations, New London's is the last, the biggest, and the best!

Funding for the film came from several sources, including the Gebhard-Gourgaud Foundation in Vermont, the Palmer Fund, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, and now the City of New London. The Gebhard-Gourgaud Foundation had awarded an additional grant

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IT'S A LANDMARK

Symbolic of the 19th Century merchant prince, the mansion of Jonathan Newton Harris at the corner of Broad and Williams Streets commands a view spanning the Sound to Montauk Point and beyond. Built in 1860, when Harris was Mayor of New London, this Italianate residence was designed by the noted New York architect Leopold Eidletz, responsible also for the 1851 First Congregational Church and the 1871 Bulkeley School.

Unlike many of his contempraries in New London, Harris' fortune was founded on a hardware and dry goods store, the famous "Yellow Store" which once stood near the Parade, and had little to do with the whaling industry. Expanding into the coal mining, railroads, pharmaceuticals and other industrial investments, Harris became an international business figure. Domestic tragedy, prevailed in 1865 when a spectacular divorce case revealed his wife's liasons with officers from Fort Trumbull.

His legacy today is seen in the fine residence on Broad at Williams, the Lena Building on Captain's Walk, the former Parish House of the 2nd Congregational Church built by his widow, and a very impressive monument in Cedar Grove Cemetary, towering over those of his fellow New Londoners even as his home dominated their more modest dwellings.

Like so many buildings in New London, this Landmark must be placed on the endangered list. Now the property of the Catholic Church, it is underutilized and being considered as the site of yet another parking lot. It is ironic that Harris, who gave generously to almost every charitable cause of his day, who founded schools and endowed churces, should suffer the loss of his home to a similar institution.

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Film nears completion.....

of $1500.00 forthcoming this year to help with the distribution of the film.

The restoration of Union Station is a major preservation story. The film will be an invaluable asset for seminars and workshops concerned not only with historic preservation, but also with salvaging downtowns from urban decay. The rescue of Union Station was indeed the turning point for downtown New London. Other communities can benefit from our experience. Within our own city there remain many commercial and residential neighborhoods whose rehabilitation may well be inspired by the success of Union Station. The film will foster an awareness of the values of rehabilitation and an interest in the heritage of many neighborhoods in New London.

NATIONAL TRUST CRUISE TO DOCK IN NEW LONDON

The New England Coastal Cruise of the National Trust will make New London its first stop on July 29th. The ship, the INDEPENDENCE, from Haddam, CT, will arrive here about 3 p.m. on the 29th and leave early the next morning. We have arranged for them to layover at City Pier, and are trying to arrange a time for a short tour of the downtown area.

The passengers will leave the ship at New London for a scheduled trip to Mystic Seaport since their boat is too large to succesfully navigate the Mystic River!

Other ports to be visited include Providence, Newport, Nantucket, and Woods Hole. The National Trust expects that approximately 80 passengers will be on board. We'll fill you in on the details as we receive them. Further information is available from the National Trust in Washington, DC

PRESERVATION WATCH

New London is losing its heritage piecemeal. A church or bank or business needs a new parking lot. A homeowner "modernizes" his home thoughtlessly. City government decides a new road takes precedence over buildings and their occupants.

The solution lies in facing the problem squarely rather than fight a rearguard battle. Only when historic districts are created to protect and preserve neighborhoods and streetscapes can we rest, assured that our rich tapestry of buildings and scenes from the past is secure. The National Register of Historic Places only reviews federally funded programs. Local and State government, and the private landholder can demolish or alter in a National Register District undisturbed by Federal Regulations. Only the creation of local Historic Districts within the City of New London can give full protection to a resource as endangered as the Bald Eagle or the great whales.

For two years the New London Historic District Study Committee has delayed action on any districting within the City. The concept of a Bank Street district, to insure the survival of the last remainder of a glorious maritime past was vehemently opposed by the Committee. It is imperative that the City and the Historic District Study Committee appointed by the City take an active role in establishing historic districting. We have lost enough battles. We cannot afford to lose the war.

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if you're not a member of NLL-URST please mail us your membership application and check payable to NLL-URST. Mail to our new "official" address.....P. O. Box 1134, New London, CT 06320.

Membership Categories

____$3.00 Student; _____$5.00 Regular; _____$10.00 Family

____25.00 Contributor; ____50.00 Patron; _____150.00 Life

Membership Application

I enclose my remittance for $_____for_____membership (s) in New London Landmarks--Union Railroad Station Trust, Inc.

NAME:_____

ADDRESS_____PHONE_____

We need your help! Please volunteer to help conduct tours, survey buildings, research age, ownership of structures, raise funds, publish newsletters, etc, etc.....

Return this application to: P. O. Box 1134, New London, CT 06320

You will receive your membership card shortly.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

At the annual meeting on November 20, 1977, the following were elected officers of New London Landmarks--Union Railroad Station Trust: Dr. George Sprecace, chairman; Dale Plummer, vice-chairman; Dr. Stephen Silver, treasurer; and Richard Arms, secretary. The latter has since had to resign and has been replaced by Bruce Baratz.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m. at the New London Public Library. This and all subsequent monthly board meetings will be open to the membership and the general public. The dates and the times of the meetings will be published in this newsletter and The Day. Philip Hendel has been invited to speak at the February meeting. He will present the plans for Harbor Marketplace, an antique, crafts, farmer's and flea market complex that has been proposed for a section of Bank Street.

New Members

We welcome the following to our membership:

Lois D. Brush (East Lyme)

Isabel Grimes (New London)

Marcella Grimes (New London)

Mr/Mrs Seymour L. Hendel (New London)

Mr/Mrs Julius S. Kanzler (New London)

John B. Kirby, Jr. (Branford)

John McGill (New London)

Sally Ryan (New London)

Diane Smith (New London)

Mr/Mrs R. L. Weiss (Quaker Hill)

Mr/Mrs Edwin Wenc (New London)

Dr/Ms David Wood (New London)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DATE APPROACHES

Many memberships will be expiring this March. Please check your membership card for your expiration date. Please renew now! Enclose your membership application at the bottom of page three marked "renewal" along with your check. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please call Sharon Churchill at 443-2118.

Your renewal will help supply us with badly-needed funds. Won't you send us your check today, before you forget? Thank you.

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